

Open the Door to Possibilities Conference



Saturday October 20th, 2012

9:00- 4:00

At Royal Roads University

In partnership with:



Open the Door to Possibility Conference

8:30-9:00	~Registration
9:00 - 12:00	~ Outdoor Workshops
12:00 – 1:30	~ Lunch
1:30 – 3:30	~ Keynote Address: Ken Finch
3:30 – 4:00	~ Questions and Discussion

Outdoor Experiences

From 9:00 to 12:00 we will have three outdoor experiences for participants.

1. **Nature Kindergarten** ~ a walk in the woods with naturalists through the woods of the nature kindergarten.
2. **Land Art** ~ Dr. Enid Elliot and Danielle Davis facilitate an experience in art and environment. *What does art look outside the walls of our classrooms? Does art need to be permanent? What can we learn from artists like Robert Smithson and Andy Goldsworthy? We will explore these questions and the medium of using natural landscapes to create artistic and environmental statements.*
3. **Finding Nature Play Right Where We Are!** ~Join Ken Finch, of Green Hearts INC, to explore our outdoor surroundings in search of great nature play opportunities that may be right in front of our noses, but too easy to overlook! Teams of participants will engage in a scavenger hunt to find good nature play features, and then share and discuss them with the other teams.

Keynote Address

Restoring the Nature of Childhood

Presented by Ken Finch of Green Hearts Inc. of Omaha Nebraska

Throughout history, human children have grown up with nature as a favorite and powerful play partner but today that connection is vanishing amidst an onslaught of parental fears, over-scheduled childhoods, urbanization, and the addictive allure of plugged-in play. Using research data, anecdotes, discussion, and thematic cartoons, Ken Finch will discuss the diverse and significant impacts of nature-based play on holistic child development, as well as how nature play lays the foundation for life-long bonds with nature.

In this presentation we'll also consider whether good nature play requires acres of wild land right outside your classroom, or if can it be done in just a small, fenced playground. Finch will share slides of practical, inexpensive, and successful approaches to nature play that have been used in a

variety of early childhood settings. Participants will be asked to share their own ideas, barriers, and opportunities about nature play, and to begin formulating new plans for their own programs.

Ken Finch is the founder and president of *Green Hearts Institute for Nature in Childhood*, a non-profit conservation organization focused on restoring the bonds between children and nature. *Green Hearts* teaches, speaks, writes, and consults about the power of nature-based play and how it can be restored to childhood. *Green Hearts* works extensively with both the environmental education and early childhood education professions, and promotes the synergy between them. Based in Omaha, Nebraska, *Green Hearts* works across the U.S. and internationally.

Ken has worked in environmental education for 38 years, and holds a Master's degree in that field. He has led two of the United States' largest nature centers, worked as a senior manager in two children's museums, and served as the Minnesota State Director for the National Audubon Society. His extensive volunteer experience includes service on many non-profit boards and advisory committees, as well as a term as the national President of the Association of Nature Center Administrators.

Ken can be reached at kfinch@greenheartsinc.org

Lunch

It will be a buffet style hot lunch catered by Habitat. We would encourage participants to bring a water bottle and snack for the a.m. as we will be outside for the whole morning.

Parking

There is pay parking available on Campus it is eight dollars a day. We would encourage participants to carpool.

Door Prizes

We have many wonderful door prizes for you to enjoy.

Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Centre or Organization: _____

ECEBC Victoria Branch member : yes no Membership number: _____

Early Bird Registration before September 1st, 2012

- Registration fees: \$65.00 for members of ECEBC Victoria Branch
 \$85.00 for non-members of ECEBC Victoria Branch
 \$80.00 for registration and ECEBC Victoria Branch Membership

After September 1st:

- \$85.00 for members of ECEBC Victoria Branch
 \$100.00 for registration non-members

Please make payment payable to **ECEBC Victoria Branch**

Please mail your Registration to :

Stomping in the Mud

4244 Eastridge Cres.

Victoria, V8Z 6B6

For questions and enquiries please email : stompinginthemud@yahoo.com

Spaces are limited and Registration will be on a first come first served basis.



Victoria Branch Membership Application Form



\$10.00 Victoria Branch Membership fee is valid for current calendar year (January to December)

Members are responsible for renewing their \$10.00 Victoria Branch membership fee annually.

Application and annual membership fee of \$10.00 can be mailed to:

#301 – 3980 Shelbourne St.

P.O Box 31129

Victoria, BC V8N 3E0

Make cheque payable to:

Victoria ECEBC Branch

Please provide the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

Information gathered will not be shared outside the ECEBC Victoria Branch; to be used for correspondence, announcements, monthly newsletter and planning professional development.

Professional Affiliation (please circle):

ECE Assistant ECE

Instructor Student

I/T Special Needs

Other _____

Place of employment _____

Are you a current member of *Provincial ECEBC?

YES NO

*You are not required to be a provincial member of ECEBC in order to be an associate member of the Victoria Branch.

Victoria Branch Membership Fee/ Categories
(\$10.00 annual fee applies to both categories)

Full (Provincial and local member)** You receive benefits of provincial and local branches **plus** voting privileges in local and provincial issues.

**** Additional membership fee to ECEBC required.**

Associate (Local member only) You receive benefits of local branch membership **minus** voting privileges in local and provincial issues.

For office use only:

Date of application: _____

Payment included: _____

Cash or Cheque: _____

Membership #: _____

This membership is 14 month membership running October 2012 to December 2013 the cost of membership is 15\$. As membership fees increase as of January 2013.